



## Excel – Week 1

**1824 GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS****GROUP PREP**

In preparation for group, [watch Emmanuel's weekend service message](#), then answer the following discussion questions.

**CHECK-IN TIME**

Talk about what you did last week to complete your action step.

**GROUP DISCUSSION QUESTIONS**

Generosity is a way of life. It's not just about our finances. The way we give our time, our energy, or our material belongings reflects the condition of our heart. When we choose to live others-centered rather than self-centered, we find a life of joy, experience God's favor, and make an impact on others.

1. Selfishness is something ingrained into the world around us. How has culture influenced your mindset around how you spend your time or money?
2. Conversations about generosity—especially in the church—make many of us uncomfortable. Why do you think that is? If that's you, would you be open enough to share your perspective?
3. Read [Proverbs 11:25](#) and [Luke 6:38](#). Now, think of a time when you were able to be generous, whether with finances, material goods, or time. How did you feel during and after you were generous?

How have you experienced the joy of generous living or seen the blessing of the Lord in another way?

4. In his book [The Second Mountain](#), David Brooks said, "When people make generosity part of their daily routine, they refashion who they are." Pastor Danny used the phrase it *shapes* who we are.

Based on the rhythms of generosity you are practicing, what kind of person are you becoming?

5. As you reflect on your generosity, where can you grow, even just by 1%?

How are you going to make that growth happen this week?



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**ACTION STEP**

Choose one of the following or create your own. Consider finding an accountability partner within your group to walk alongside you this week.

- **Start Small:** If you have never been generous in your finances commit to a small amount each week. This might mean you sacrifice one Starbucks, one lunch out, or one unnecessary thing at the store and be generous with that amount. Do this for one month and see what happens.
- **Budget:** Plan for generosity! Look at your weekly or monthly spending and set aside a portion to be generous with. Challenge yourself to give God his 10% first and see how far he will make the other 90% go.
- **Step into Serving:** If you are feeling a press from the Lord to be more generous with your time, text TEAM to 65248 to join the Impact Team, or plan a service project as a Small Group.
- **Read:** [The Second Mountain by David Brooks](#), [Giving it All Away... by David Green](#), or [The Paradox of Generosity by Christian Smith & Hilary Davidson](#)
- **Journal:** If you struggle to trust God with finances, spend time journaling about all the ways he's already provided for you.
- **Scripture:** Meditate on and/or memorize related verses: [Acts 20:35](#), [Proverbs 11:25](#), [Luke 6:38](#).
- **Daily time with God:** Determine the type of routine you'd like to have that allows you to spend time learning about what pleases God. Here are some ways to do this:
  - [Download the Emmanuel app](#) and read the One Year New Testament daily.
  - If you recently placed your faith in Christ and texted SAVED to 65248, read the devotional provided in your starter kit.

**PRAYER**

Ask your group to share two things

- Prayer requests for themselves and the people in their lives.
- Ask also for any reason to praise. It is great to come to God in thanksgiving for all He has done.

Keep note of the burdens in people's lives and notice when God moves in those areas specifically. We believe God will see prayers become praise and it is an opportunity to increase our faith when we are in the position to bring that to light.

**GROUP SERVING OPPORTUNITIES**



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Do you want to partner with local families who are struggling to provide Christmas for their family? Consider sponsoring 1 or 2 kids this Christmas season. Text GIFT to 65248 to sign up!

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**UPCOMING EVENTS**

Impact Team Night | November 14

1824 Friendsgiving | November 17

Christmas Eve Services | December 23 & 24

*You can find more information on all of these events at [eclife.org](http://eclife.org).*